



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Department of Public Health

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TO: Regional EMS Councils and all Massachusetts Ambulance Services

FROM: Louise Goyette, Director

DATE: December 23, 2003

RE: Elimination of all special medical oversight requirements for AED use by ambulance services and their EMTs

This is to clarify that **as of July 18, 2003**, amendments to the Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services System regulations, 105 CMR 170.000, were promulgated to implement changes in CPR/AED national standards. These amendments deleted all special requirements for authorization, training, and medical oversight for ambulance services and their EMTs to use automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). Specifically, 105 CMR 170.330(C), setting out requirements for an AED program, was deleted in its entirety (and another provision was renumbered to become 170.330(C)).

As a result of that regulatory change, A/R 2-280, which further delineated requirements for an AED program, has been superseded, and is void as of July 18, 2003.

Please note that the change in regulation was made because AED training is now incorporated within national standard cardiopulmonary (CPR) training. Thus, AED use is within the standard skill set of every EMT.

Ambulance services and the hospitals with which they may have affiliation agreements or memoranda of understanding may, but are not required to, enter into agreements for medical oversight that also address AED use.

If you have any questions, contact Abdullah Rehayem at the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services, at (617) 753-7321.